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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8079

UNCLAS PRETORIA 000713

FOR AF/EX RUSH MARBURG, FOR OES/EGC BARBARA DEROSA-JOYNT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC PREL SF

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MOTLANTHE TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

REF: 210243Z MAR 09

¶1. Post received a letter from President Motlanthe addressed to President Obama in response to the invitation to the Major Economies Forum. Text of the letter follows.

¶2. BEGIN TEXT:

03 April 2009

Your Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 24 March 2009 proposing the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate to continue the work of the existing Major Economies initiative.

I support your proposal and South Africa will continue to participate in this forum to support the formal negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

I also believe that a candid dialogue may assist the formal negotiations and facilitate a better understanding between some of the key countries in the negotiations. South Africa will therefore attend the proposed Heads of State Meeting in July that will follow the G8 5 Heads of State Meeting.

My Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk, will continue to represent me in the preparatory sessions.

I also look forward to working with you on this issue. South Africa strongly believes that a global agreement is possible and we will work with all other countries to achieve that.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/  
Kgalema Motlanthe

END TEXT

¶3. Original signed letter will be sent via pouch under registry number 033587.

LA LIME